Civil Registration & Vital Statistics

We provide legal review for Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Data for Health initiative to improve public health data so that governments are equipped with the tools and systems to collect and use data to prioritize health challenges, develop policies, deploy resources and measure access.

Activities

- Conduct legal reviews and develop legal and policy recommendations.
- Provide technical assistance to implement recommendations.
- Provide advocacy planning and support where necessary to advance regulations and legislation.

Where we work:
Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Zambia

STATISTICS THAT GO UNREGISTERED

- 2 billion people live in countries that do not report any data.
- 29.4 million deaths go unrecorded each year—more than half.
- 128 million babies are born each year without being registered.

GHAI presents at the Pacific Regional Workshop on Legal Identity in 2019.
Our Impact

- GHAI is providing technical legal assistance to help governments draft new CRVS laws in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.
- Based on our legal reviews, new CRVS regulations have been drafted in Ecuador and the Philippines, and adopted in Rwanda.

Success Story

CRVS Reform in Papua New Guinea

The challenge:
It is difficult for countries to obtain the data they need to assess their health burdens and ensure they are reaching their most vulnerable populations, particularly in remote and rural areas. In Papua New Guinea, birth and death registration rates are at less than 5%.

GHAI’s role:
The Global Health Advocacy Incubator, in collaboration with other Bloomberg Data for Health partners, developed a Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit to help countries strengthen their Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems based on United Nations guidelines. The Toolkit was used to analyze and identify gaps in Papua New Guinea’s CRVS legal framework.

Results:
The Constitutional and Law Reform Commission used the toolkit to draft a new Civil and Identity Registration Bill, which is expected to pass in 2020 and help decision makers obtain timely and reliable data to ensure the health and rights of all Papua New Guineans.

“The bottom line for [what] we’re trying to do in CRVS is, the data collected [provides] information on which evidence-based planning can be carried out by the national government. And that, for us, is paramount.”

- Noel Mobiha, Acting Registrar General, Papua New Guinea

The legal toolkit helps in-country lawyers assess their existing CRVS legal frameworks and design systems to incentivize higher registration rates, based on international best practice guidelines.

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The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) supports civil society organizations who advocate for public health policies that reduce death and disease.

We bring a proven advocacy approach and a global network of local partners, built on a 20-year track record of success across multiple issues in more than 60 countries.